

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Russia
Program Title:	More Open, Participatory Society
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	118-0211
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$11,590,000 FSA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$2,460,000 FSA
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$15,477,000 FSA
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 2002
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2008

Summary: USAID's program to foster a more open, participatory society includes: increasing sources of independent public information; strengthening civil society and advocacy institutions; and increasing citizen participation in civil society organizations (CSOs) and in the community.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Independent Information (\$3,542,000 FSA, \$25,000 FSA carryover, \$300,000 FSA prior year recoveries). USAID's funds will be used to increase sharing of technical skills and quality programming through expansion of the network of regional Internovosti TV news service subscribers; provide legal assistance to regional print media; foster best practices gained from connections between American and Russian media business owners and managers and conduct training for journalists and managers of non-state media. Principal contractors and grantees will include Internews (prime), the International Research and Exchanges Board (prime), and a new partner to be determined.

Civil Society and Advocacy Institutions (\$4,749,000 FSA, \$1,342,000 FSA carryover). USAID will support CSO community efforts to consolidate and professionalize the sector, to build advocacy capacity, and to equip CSOs with skills to effectively engage policymakers. USAID's program will support drafting of State Duma legislative proposals on taxation of CSOs, which will be supported by economic and policy research on the economic effect of the Third Sector, and will implement a high profile nation-wide public advocacy campaign to promote proposed legislative changes. In addition, USAID will provide technical assistance to organizations involved in increasing citizen participation in the political process through voter education, election monitoring and training for young politicians and political leaders. USAID will support the expansion of a non-partisan, grassroots voters' organization to 30 Russian regions. Human rights activities will address issues of tolerance, the rights of the physically and mentally challenged, advocacy and dissemination of information. Principal contractors and grantees include: National Democratic Institute (prime), International Republican Institute (prime), VOICE (prime), Perspectiva (prime), University of Minnesota (prime), Bay Area Council (prime) and new partners to be determined.

Citizen Participation (\$2,430,000 FSA, \$770,000 FSA carryover). USAID will support programs to promote democratic values among government officials, business and political leaders. A service-learning program will work to expand school-based pilot programs and promote students' participatory activities in their communities. USAID will continue to mobilize local communities to address common issues, and strengthen CSOs in the Russian Far East. Principal partners/grantees include Moscow School of Political Studies (prime), Institute for Sustainable Communities (prime), and new partners to be determined.

Program Support (\$869,000 FSA, \$22,800 FSA carryover). These funds will cover training, evaluations, studies and related program management costs.

FY 2005 Program:

Independent information (\$4,000,000 FSA). USAID will work to support regional broadcasters by continuing efforts to support the commercial side of broadcast media, promoting socially valuable content, and supporting professional broadcast media associations to be effective. A complementary activity will be introduced for training and management to broaden the development of the radio broadcast sector. USAID will continue to foster contacts between American and European media entrepreneurs, and strengthen organizations and initiatives such as the creation of the Association of Independent Regional Publishers. A follow-on print media activity will be designed and competed. New initiatives will strengthen media professionals' knowledge and skills in reporting on political and elections related activities.

Civil Society and Advocacy Institutions (\$7,587,000). USAID will continue its support to Russian CSOs community efforts to consolidate and professionalise the sector, to build CSO's advocacy capacity and to work for policy and legislative change. USAID will continue programming on the promotion of favourable taxation of CSOs. USAID will continue to support Regional Community Initiative centers to reinforce social responsibility in government, business and the general population, to support civic initiatives in target regions and to develop as regional grant-making entities. Activities will continue to promote human rights and tolerance through advocacy, awareness and education campaigns and support to legal defense of rights and opportunities. Principal contractors/grantees: same as above.

Political party training work will focus on campaign and election monitoring training during the campaigns for State Duma and President. Efforts will broaden work beyond political party strengthening in order to more effectively engage in the political sector. USAID will expand monitoring of elections in the regions. Principal contractors/grantees: same as above.

Citizen Participation (\$2,650,000 FSA). The civic education program introduced in the previous year will continue to work to expand school-based pilot programs and promote students' participatory activities in communities. Support to the Moscow School of Political Studies will continue, with increased support and attention to building internal capacity of the organization. Principal contractors/grantees: same as above.

Program Support (\$1,240,000 FSA). These funds will cover training, evaluations, studies and related program management costs.

Performance and Results: USAID's democracy programs have catalysed active participation of citizens across every sphere of Russian society. The second All Russia Civic Forum, in which USAID partners played a significant role, brought together approximately 3,000 federal, regional and local government officials, civil society activists, political analysts and businessmen from across the country to discuss issues such as the national strategy in the social sphere and assistance to unprotected and vulnerable populations. The second bi-annual All-Russia Conference of Civic Organizations brought together over 300 representatives of human rights organizations to explore strategies for cooperation between CSOs, authorities, businesses and political institutions. Leaders of two USAID partner organizations were invited to sit on the Presidential Commission on Human Rights.

In 2003, synergies were created with other USAID programming as a record number of Russian regional TV companies participated in public awareness campaigns to support causes such as assistance to Russian orphans and abandoned children, to discourage drug abuse, to raise awareness of children's rights and to promote media independence. Four new Regional Training Centers were opened to conduct training targeted to increase professionalization and sustainability of the media sector. Russian-American Media Entrepreneurship Dialogue (RAMED) led to the creation of a new publishers' association. The VOICE coalition expanded its network into 30 regions and for the first time conducted parallel vote tabulation.

Despite these solid gains, the sector is threatened by the centralization of power and increased restriction in laws such as the new law on media and politics, the new law on local self-governance, the lack of laws favorable to philanthropy and charitable giving, and the recent moves against Russia's largest emerging corporate philanthropists.